

SENATE BILL No. 251

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 32-15-6.1.

Synopsis: Actions involving state liens. Establishes procedures for legal actions that involve state liens or other encumbrances on real property.

Effective: July 1, 2002.

Paul

January 7, 2002, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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Second Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2002)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2001 General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 251

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning property.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 32-15-6.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2002]:

4 **Chapter 6.1. Actions Involving State Liens**

5 **Sec. 1. If:**

6 **(1) the state has a lien or other encumbrance on real property;**
7 **and**

8 **(2) an action is brought concerning a lien or other**
9 **encumbrance on the real property that has greater priority**
10 **than the state's lien or encumbrance, including:**

11 **(A) an action:**

12 **(i) involving foreclosure of the prior lien or**
13 **encumbrance; or**

14 **(ii) that otherwise affects the lien or encumbrance of the**
15 **state; or**

16 **(B) an action brought to foreclose the equity of redemption**
17 **of the real property after a sale for unpaid taxes or another**



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1 municipal lien;
 2 the lien or encumbrance of the state and its priority may be
 3 considered in the action and decided by the court.

4 **Sec. 2. (a) In an action described in section 1 of this chapter,**
 5 **notice shall be sent to the state that contains the following:**

- 6 (1) The names of the parties.
 7 (2) A description of the lien or encumbrance of the state.
 8 (3) The date by which the state must answer. However, the
 9 time in which the state is required to answer must be the same
 10 as the time allowed for defendants who receive personal
 11 service in Indiana to file answers.
 12 (4) If the lien or encumbrance is for an inheritance tax, the
 13 following if known:

- 14 (A) The name of the decedent.
 15 (B) The date of the individual's death.
 16 (C) The state and county in which the individual resided on
 17 the date of death.
 18 (D) The names and addresses of:
 19 (i) the decedent's personal representatives; or
 20 (ii) if personal representatives have not been appointed,
 21 the names and addresses of the decedent's heirs at law.
 22 (5) If the lien or encumbrance involves:
 23 (A) unpaid corporate taxes; or
 24 (B) interest, costs, or penalties imposed on unpaid
 25 corporate taxes;
 26 the name of the corporation that is required to pay the
 27 corporate taxes.

28 (b) The plaintiff, the plaintiff's attorney, or the court clerk shall
 29 issue the notice.

30 (c) If the lien or encumbrance of the state is for:

- 31 (1) a tax payable to the state or for any other right or claim of
 32 the state, the notice shall be served on the attorney general;
 33 and
 34 (2) a recognizance entered into or a criminal conviction
 35 entered in a county in Indiana, the notice shall be served on
 36 the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the
 37 recognizance was entered into or the criminal conviction was
 38 entered.

39 (d) The notice must be accompanied by a copy of the complaint.

40 **Sec. 3. (a) The state is not required to answer the notice**
 41 **described in section 2 of this chapter or the complaint attached to**
 42 **the notice.**



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(b) If the state fails to answer a notice described in section 2 of this chapter or the complaint attached to the notice, the failure may not be considered:

- (1) a waiver of any rights the state may have at law;
- (2) grounds for a default judgment against the state; or
- (3) grounds for summary judgment or any other dispositive judgment that otherwise extinguishes the state's lien or encumbrance.

Sec. 4. (a) If the state answers a notice described in section 2 of this chapter or otherwise appears before the court in the case:

- (1) the action shall proceed as in other cases; and
- (2) a judgment in the case binds the state, and the lien or other encumbrance of the state may be released in the same manner as if the judgment had been entered against an individual.

(b) If the state does not answer the notice described in section 2 of this chapter or the complaint attached to the notice or does not otherwise appear before the court in the case:

- (1) the action shall proceed as in other cases; and
- (2) the lien or other encumbrance of the state identified in the complaint shall be:
 - (A) explicitly recognized in its proper priority in any order of the court that affects the lien or other encumbrance of the state; and
 - (B) paid out of any surplus remaining after liens or other encumbrances that are superior to the lien or encumbrance of the state are paid.

(c) In an action to foreclose the equity of redemption under a sale for taxes or another municipal lien or in an action involving strict foreclosure, a judgment may be entered that extinguishes a lien or other encumbrance of the state on the real property described in the complaint if:

- (1) the state does not answer;
- (2) a disclaimer is filed by the state; or
- (3) the court determines that any part of the lien for the taxes or other municipal lien that is foreclosed is superior to the lien or encumbrance of the state.

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